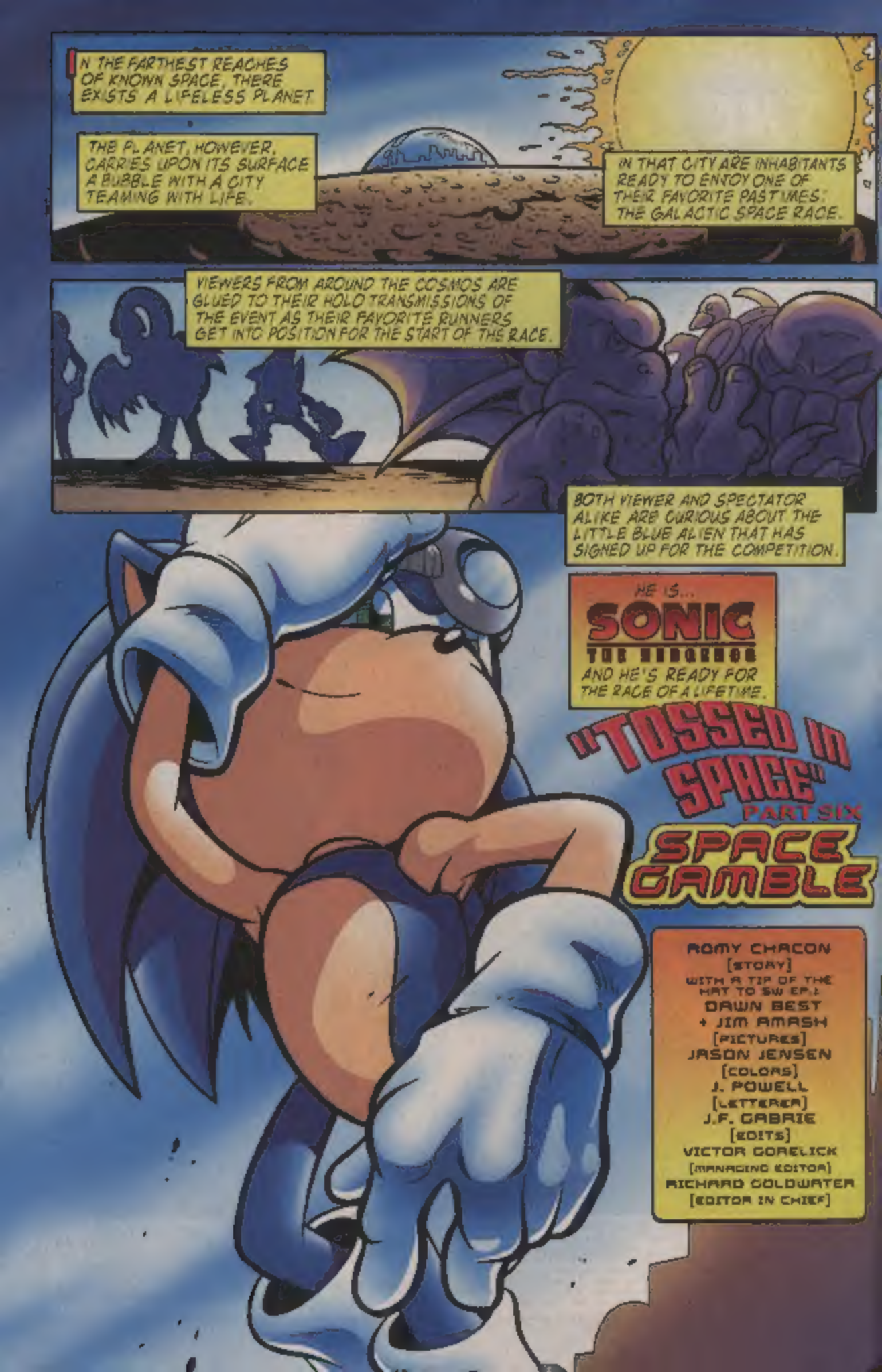
Archie ADVENTURE SERIES
NO. 129
US $2.19
SEGA
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG
IN THIS ISSUE: OUR SPACED OUT SPEEDSTER MEETS THE PARENTS— TAILS' PARENTS— IN THE LAST PLACE HE EVER EXPECTED!
IT'S THE ANSWER TO THE SONICVERSE'S BIGGEST MYSTERY— DON'T MISS "WELCOME TO WHEELWORLD!" AS "TOSSED IN SPACE" CONCLUDES!
DIRECT EDITION

TOSSED IN SPACE CONCLUDES WITH THE TRIAL OF THE BEM

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG (ISSN 1070-0390). No. 128, Jan., 2004. Published every 4 weeks, twice in April by Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Richard H. Goldwater, President and Co-Publisher. Michael I. Silverglat, Chairman and Co-Publisher. Single copies $2.19 in the U.S., $2.99 in Canada. Subscription rate U.S. $28.47 for 13 issues, $33.67 in Canada. All Canadian orders payable in U.S. funds. SEGA, Sonic The Hedgehog, and all related characters and indicia are either registered trademarks or trademarks of SEGA CORPORATION © 1991-2003. SEGA CORPORATION and SONIC TEAM, LTD./SEGA CORPORATION © 2003-2005. All Rights Reserved. The product is manufactured under license from Sega of America, Inc., 650 Townsend St., Ste. 650, San Francisco, CA 94103 www.sega.com. Any similarities between characters, names, persons, and/or institutions in this book and any living, dead, or fictional characters, names, persons, and/or institutions are not intended and if they exist, are purely coincidental. Periodicals postage paid at the post office at Mamaroneck, New York and at additional mailing offices. Title registered in U.S. patent office. POSTMASTER, send address changes to SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, c/o Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Printed in Canada.


IN THE FARTHEST REACHES OF KNOWN SPACE, THERE EXISTS A LIFELESS PLANET.
THE PLANET, HOWEVER, CARRIES UPON ITS SURFACE A BUBBLE WITH A CITY TEAMING WITH LIFE.
IN THAT CITY ARE INHABITANTS READY TO ENJOY ONE OF THEIR FAVORITE PASTIMES: THE GALACTIC SPACE RACE.
VIEWERS FROM AROUND THE COSMOS ARE GLUED TO THEIR HOLO TRANSMISSIONS OF THE EVENT AS THEIR FAVORITE RUNNERS GET INTO POSITION FOR THE START OF THE RACE.
BOTH VIEWER AND SPECTATOR ALIKE ARE CURIOUS ABOUT THE LITTLE BLUE ALIEN THAT HAS SIGNED UP FOR THE COMPETITION.
HE IS...
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
AND HE'S READY FOR THE RACE OF A LIFETIME.
"TOSSED IN SPACE"
PART SIX
SPACE GAMBLE
ROMY CHACON [STORY]
WITH A TIP OF THE HAT TO SW EP.I
DAWN BEST + JIM AMASH [PICTURES]
JASON JENSEN [COLORS]
J. POWELL [LETTERER]
J.F. GABRIE [EDITS]
VICTOR GORELICK [MANAGING EDITOR]
RICHARD GOLDWATER [EDITOR IN CHIEF]

COMING TO YOU LIVE FROM...
ALL RIGHT, SONIC. YOU THINK YOU'RE THE FASTEST KID IN THE GALAXY. NOW IT'S TIME TO PROVE IT. IF I'M GOING TO WIN THAT PRIZE AND KEEP MY SHIP.
ENOUGH TO GET IT REPAIRED AND OFF THIS ROCK.*
CAN'T LOSE...IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE A CHOICE SINCE I USED THE SHIP AS A DEPOSIT FOR THE ENTRANCE FEE. EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON MY WINNING THIS RACE.
RANGGG
*Sonic's ship was damaged last issue by S.V.E. -Ed
WHOA! THAT MUST BE THE STARTING SIGNAL. BETTER KEEP MY MIND ON THE RACE.
WHO KNOWS WHAT SPEEDS THIS GROUP OF FREAKAZOIDS I'M RACING AGAINST ARE CAPABLE OF.
HEADING DOWN THE STRETCH...
SCARABB,
GREEBO,
NORDON,
KIR-TA,
BRRE-DIE,
AND SONIC THE HEDGEHOG

NADOOO NE CRAGG!
NOOOOOTCHH!
DUDE, THAT'S NOT COOL. I GUESS ANYTHING GOES IN THIS RACE... OKAY, I'M IN THIRD...
...NOT LETTING ME PASS...
ALL RIGHT, FOXY LIZARD-GIRL. I'LL SHOW YOU A TRICK OR TWO!
I CALL THIS LITTLE MANEUVER "THE SOFTBALL SPECIAL."
SCREEEE!

I'M ON THE LEADER!
THOK
HEY, WATCH IT, BUGGY. I AIN'T FALLIN' FOR THE "RACER THROUGH THE WINDOW" TRICK.
SLASH
WHOA... GRANDMA, WHAT BIG CLAWS YOU HAVE!
FINISH
THERE IT IS... THE FINISH LINE. BUGGY HERE MAY BE FAST, BUT I'M--
FASTER?!?
I-I-I DON'T BELIEVE IT! I LO-- I LOST-- I LOST THE RACE!
BE STRONG MY SHATTERED EGO.
LOOOOOMMMMMM

(WELL, BLUE-ONE, YOUR WAGER DID YOU LOSE.)
YEAH, YEAH. YOU WON MY SHIP FAIR AND SQUARE. YOU CAN FIND IT IN DOCKING BAY 1138 UNDER...
HOLD ON, THERE'S BEEN A NEW DEVELOPMENT...
LET'S GET A SHOT OF THE HOLO-FINISH... THERE! A SMALL ROCKET BOOSTER!
SCARABB HAS CHEATED IN A NON-MECH RACE. HIS PRIZE IS FORFEIT. THE WINNER AND NEW E.C.H.S. CHAMPION IS...
SONICTHEHEDGEHOG!
HOOORRRAHHH!!
YEAH BABY! NOW I CAN REPAIR MY SHIP! BESIDES, THIS PROVES I'M THE FASTEST ANYTHING IN THE UNIVERSE. I WON'T LET IT GET TO MY HEAD--
--MUCH!
END.

ALINA VELAZQUEZ
KNOXVILLE, TN

ANGEL RODRIGUEZ
SAN DIEGO, CA

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SONIC FAN ART

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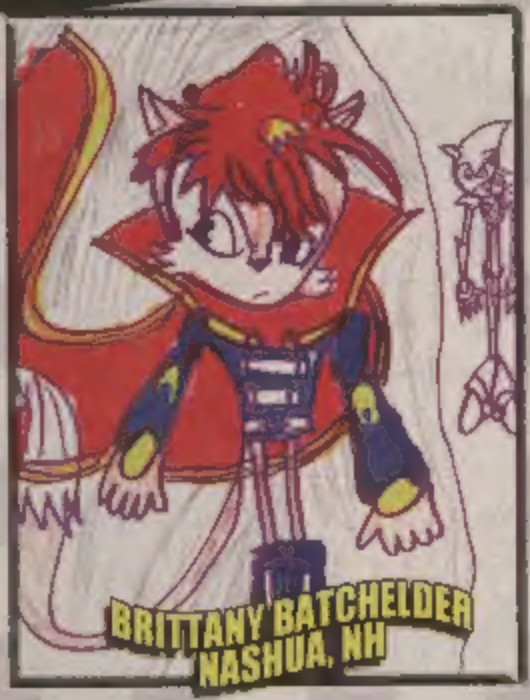
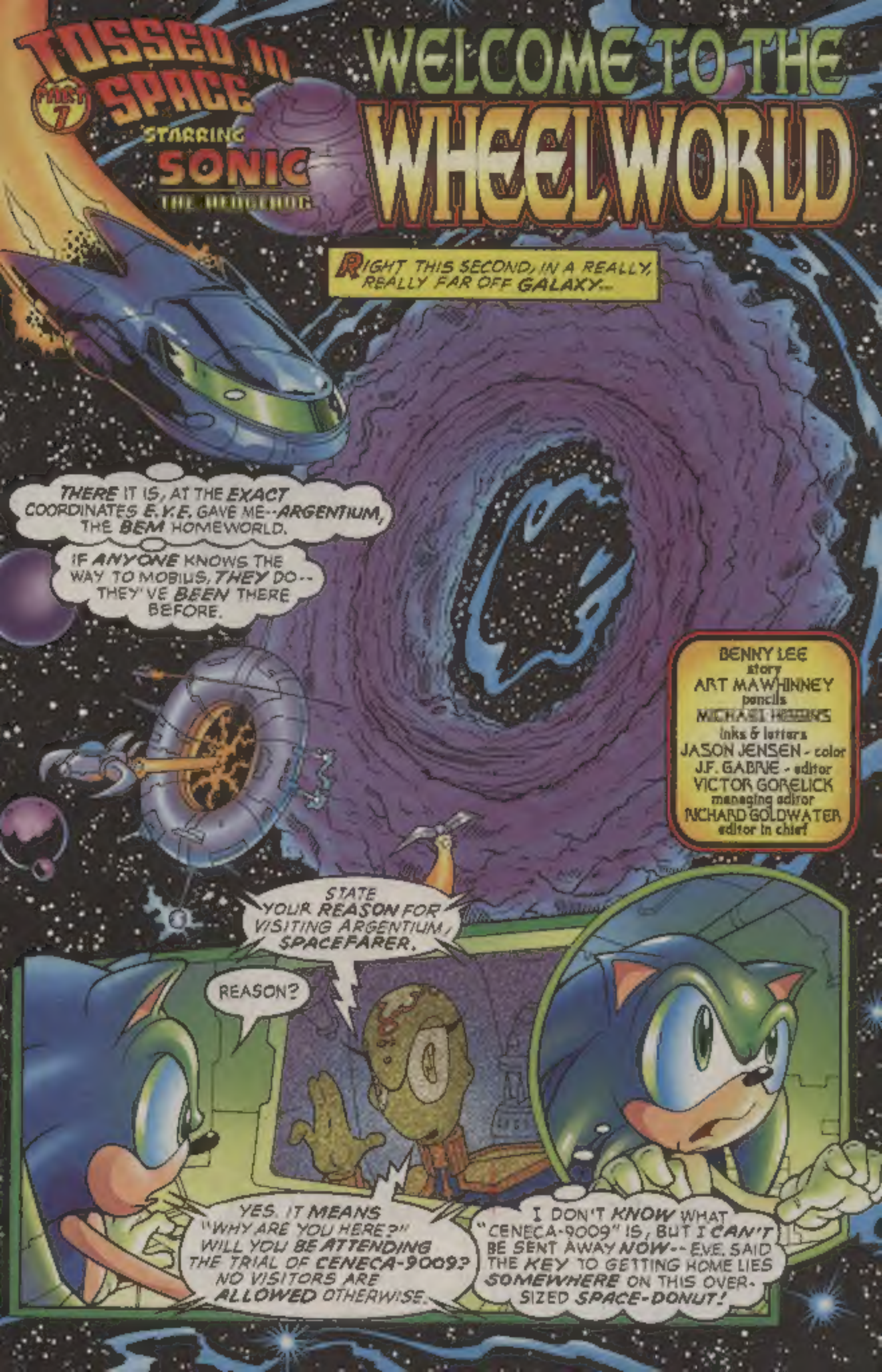
WHIPPANY, NJ



BRITTANY BATCHELDER
NASHUA, NH


TOSSED IN SPACE
PART 7
STARRING SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
WELCOME TO THE WHEELWORLD
RIGHT THIS SECOND, IN A REALLY, REALLY FAR OFF GALAXY...
THERE IT IS, AT THE EXACT COORDINATES E.Y.E. GAVE ME--ARGENTIUM, THE BEM HOMEWORLD.
IF ANYONE KNOWS THE WAY TO MOBIUS, THEY DO--THEY'VE BEEN THERE BEFORE.
BENNY LEE story
ART MAWHINNEY pencils
MICHAEL HEMMINGS inks & letters
JASON JENSEN - color
J.F. GABRIE - editor
VICTOR GORELICK managing editor
RICHARD GOLDWATER editor in chief
STATE YOUR REASON FOR VISITING ARGENTIUM, SPACEFARER.
REASON?
YES. IT MEANS "WHY ARE YOU HERE?" WILL YOU BE ATTENDING THE TRIAL OF CENECA-9009? NO VISITORS ARE ALLOWED OTHERWISE.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT "CENECA-9009" IS, BUT I CAN'T BE SENT AWAY NOW--EVE SAID THE KEY TO GETTING HOME LIES SOMEWHERE ON THIS OVER-SIZED SPACE-DONUT!

Uhh... YEAH, THAT'S WHY I'M HERE, ALL RIGHT!
VERY GOOD, THEN. PREPARE FOR LANDING.
WHAT A WAY OUT WORLD! ITS OUTER RIM IS SOLID BEDROCK, WHILE ITS GRAVITY-CONTAINING "INNER TUBE" HAS OCEANS AND CONTINENTS--
--CAPABLE OF SUPPORTING LIFE!
ON A CLEAR DAY YOU CAN LOOK UP AT THE SKY AND SEE THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PLANET!
MY UNCLE CHUCK COULD PROBABLY SPEND THE REST OF HIS LIFE STUDYING THIS PLACE.
AS IT IS, NOBODY'LL EVER SEE HIM AGAIN ONCE HE GETS HIS HANDS ON MY SPACESHIP!
SAY, WHERE'S CENECA-9009 LOCATED, ANYWAY?
WHERE'RE YOU FROM, WISE GUY? THE OTHER SIDE O' THE UNIVERSE?
UHH... ACTUALLY...
WOW.
EITHER ALL OF THESE ALIENS HAVE CLOCKED THEIR FAIR SHARE OF FREQUENT FLIER MILES TO THE BEM HOMEWORLD...
... OR PLANET CENECA-9009 DID SOMETHING PRETTY SERIOUS TO WARRANT SUCH A HUGE TURNOUT.

MINUTES LATER.

THIS MUST BE THE COURTHOUSE.

CENECA-9009 YOU STAND BEFORE THE TRIBUNAL MAGISTRATE OF PLANET ARGENTIUM

ON THIS THE 70TH ROLL OF THE 63RD ROTATIONAL SPIN...

ACCUSED OF CRIMINAL DISOBEDIENCE AGAINST THE ARGENTIUM HIGH COMMAND

HOW DO YOU PLEAD?

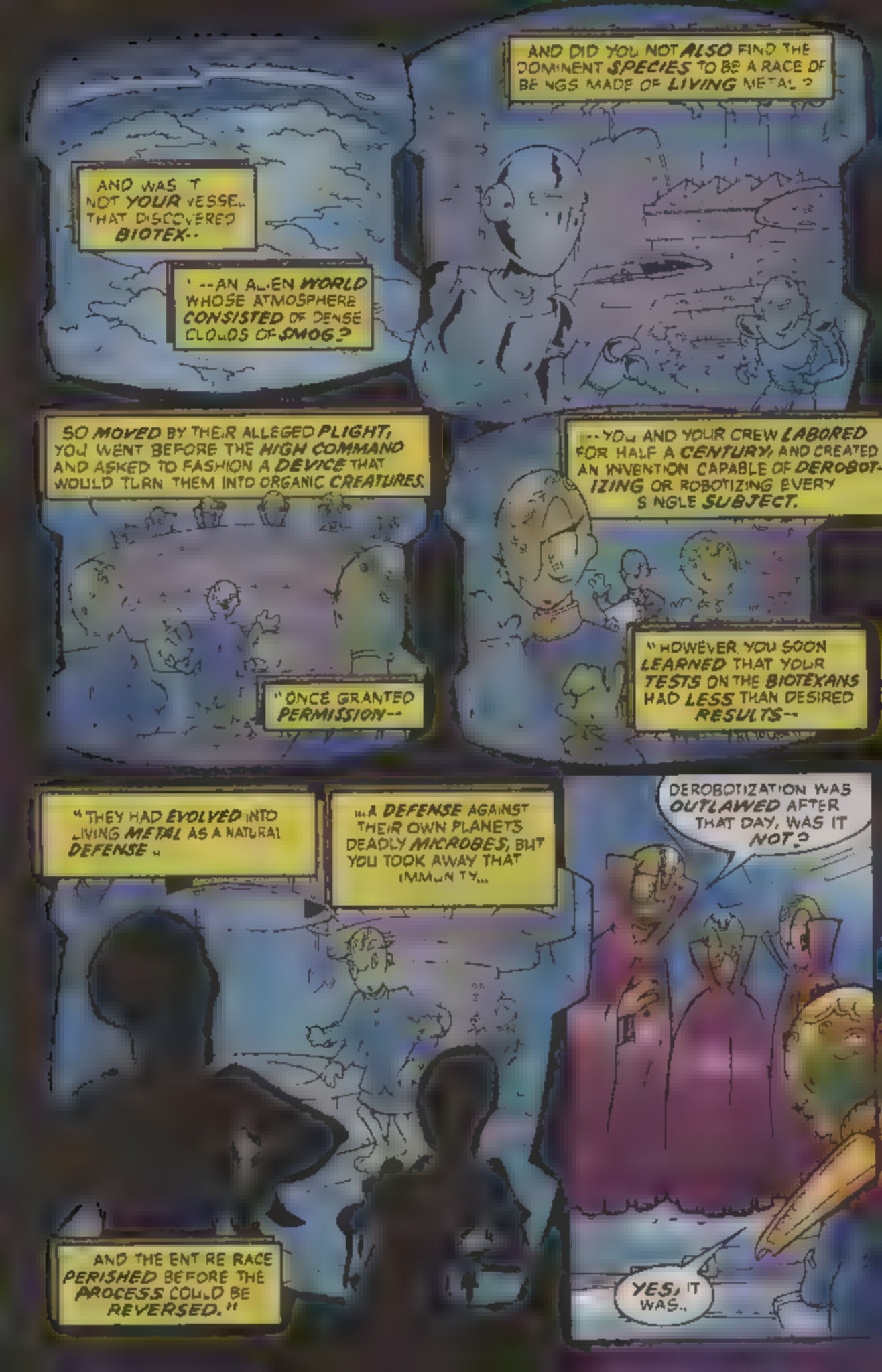
NOT GUILTY CENECA-10050.

WHAT? IS EVERYONE NAMED CENECA ON THIS PLANET?

VERY WELL, SINCE YOU INSIST ON BELABORING THESE PROCEEDINGS WITH LIES...

LET HISTORY SHOW THE TRUTH!

"WAS IT NOT EIGHT THOUSAND ROTATIONAL CYCLES AGO THAT THE FIRST BEM SCIENCE CRUISERS SET OFF TO EXPLORE THE STARS?


AND WAS IT NOT YOUR VESSEL THAT DISCOVERED BIOTEX--
--AN ALIEN WORLD WHOSE ATMOSPHERE CONSISTED OF DENSE CLOUDS OF SMOG?
AND DID YOU NOT ALSO FIND THE DOMINENT SPECIES TO BE A RACE OF BEINGS MADE OF LIVING METAL?
SO MOVED BY THEIR ALLEGED PLIGHT, YOU WENT BEFORE THE HIGH COMMAND AND ASKED TO FASHION A DEVICE THAT WOULD TURN THEM INTO ORGANIC CREATURES.
"ONCE GRANTED PERMISSION--
--YOU AND YOUR CREW LABORED FOR HALF A CENTURY, AND CREATED AN INVENTION CAPABLE OF DEROBOTIZING OR ROBOTIZING EVERY SINGLE SUBJECT.
"HOWEVER, YOU SOON LEARNED THAT YOUR TESTS ON THE BIOTEXANS HAD LESS THAN DESIRED RESULTS--
"THEY HAD EVOLVED INTO LIVING METAL AS A NATURAL DEFENSE."
"A DEFENSE AGAINST THEIR OWN PLANETS DEADLY MICROBES, BUT YOU TOOK AWAY THAT IMMUNITY...
DEROBOTIZATION WAS OUTLAWED AFTER THAT DAY, WAS IT NOT?
YES, IT WAS..
AND THE ENTIRE RACE PERISHED BEFORE THE PROCESS COULD BE REVERSED."

"AND FOR THE NEXT *SEVERAL THOUSAND* CYCLES YOUR SHIP CONDUCTED *GEOLOGICAL* SURVEYS AROUND THE *UNIVERSE*...

AND ON THAT DISTANT *ORB* OUR SPY CAMS *DISCOVERED*

BEFORE *FINDING* ITSELF IN A REMOTE *GALAXY*, ORBITING A WORLD CALLED *MOBIUS*.

THAT A WOULD BE-WORLD *CONQUEROR* HAD DEVISED HIS OWN *VERSION* OF THE ROBOTIZER

HIDDEN *SPY-CAM*

IT'S THE ORIGINAL *DOCTOR ROBOTNIK*-- MY LATE *NEMESIS*!

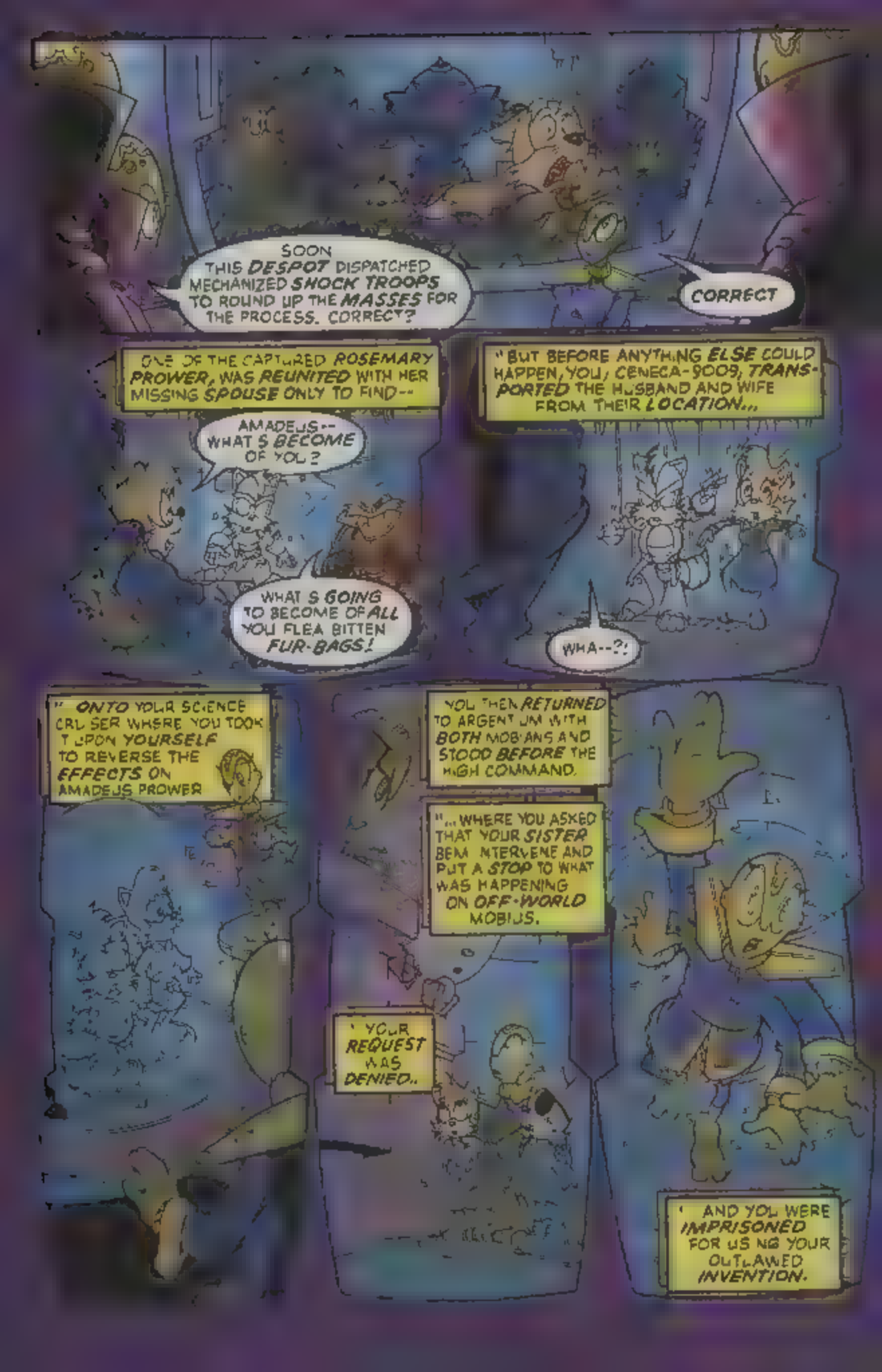
AND THAT'S *AMADEUS PROWER*-- MY BEST BUDDY'S *DAD*-- TRAPPED *INSIDE* THE ROBOTIZER!

"HOWEVER, THE CRUDE *DEVICE* WAS ONLY *CAPABLE* OF TRANSFORMING *ORGANIC* MATERIAL INTO *INORGANIC*...

"AND ONCE ROBOTIZED, A SUBJECT *REMAINED* IN THAT STATE *FOREVER*

WE ALWAYS *WONDERED* WHAT BECAME OF HIM. NOW I *KNOW*.

I'M SO *SORRY*, TAILS


SOON THIS DESPOT DISPATCHED MECHANIZED SHOCK TROOPS TO ROUND UP THE MASSES FOR THE PROCESS. CORRECT?
CORRECT
ONE OF THE CAPTURED ROSEMARY PROWER, WAS REUNITED WITH HER MISSING SPOUSE ONLY TO FIND--
AMADEUS-- WHAT'S BECOME OF YOU?
WHAT'S GOING TO BECOME OF ALL YOU FLEA BITTEN FUR-BAGS!
"BUT BEFORE ANYTHING ELSE COULD HAPPEN, YOU, CENECA-9009, TRANSPORTED THE HUSBAND AND WIFE FROM THEIR LOCATION...
WHA--?!
"ONTO YOUR SCIENCE CRUISER WHERE YOU TOOK UPON YOURSELF TO REVERSE THE EFFECTS ON AMADEUS PROWER
YOU THEN RETURNED TO ARGENTUM WITH BOTH MOBIANS AND STOOD BEFORE THE HIGH COMMAND.
"...WHERE YOU ASKED THAT YOUR SISTER BEM INTERVENE AND PUT A STOP TO WHAT WAS HAPPENING ON OFF-WORLD MOBIUS.
"YOUR REQUEST WAS DENIED..
"AND YOU WERE IMPRISONED FOR USING YOUR OUTLAWED INVENTION.

ARE YOU JOKERS KIDDING ME?
THAT'S WAY PAST BOGUS!
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS OUTBURST?
WHO COULD BE SO BRAZEN AS TO INTERRUPT THESE PROCEEDINGS?
I DON'T BELIEVE
I'M SONIC THE HEDGEHOG - THE FASTEST THING ALIVE!
SONIC?
JULES AND BERNIE HEDGEHOG'S BOY?
IT CAN'T BE BUT SOMEHOW IT IS!
MR AND MRS PROWER?
MR AND MRS PROWER!

IS IT *REALLY* YOU?

YOU'D BETTER *BELIEVE* IT, SIR!

YOU WERE *ONLY* FOUR YEARS OLD THE LAST *TIME* WE SAW YOU -- MY, BUT YOU'VE *GROWN!*

WHY DIDN'T YOU COME BACK *HOME* TO MOBIUS?

AFTER CENECA-9009'S *INCARCERATION* ALL BEM VESSELS WERE *FORBIDDEN* FROM TRAVELING THERE

AMADEUS AND ROSEMARY HAVE *LIVED* IN SAFETY ON ARGENTIUM FOR THE PAST *TWELVE* YEARS.

MORE LIKE *YOU'VE* BEEN HOLDING THEM *PRISONER* HERE AGAINST THEIR *WILL!*

WE WOULD *ASK* THAT YOU RESPECT THIS *COURT*, SONIC THE HEDGEHOG...

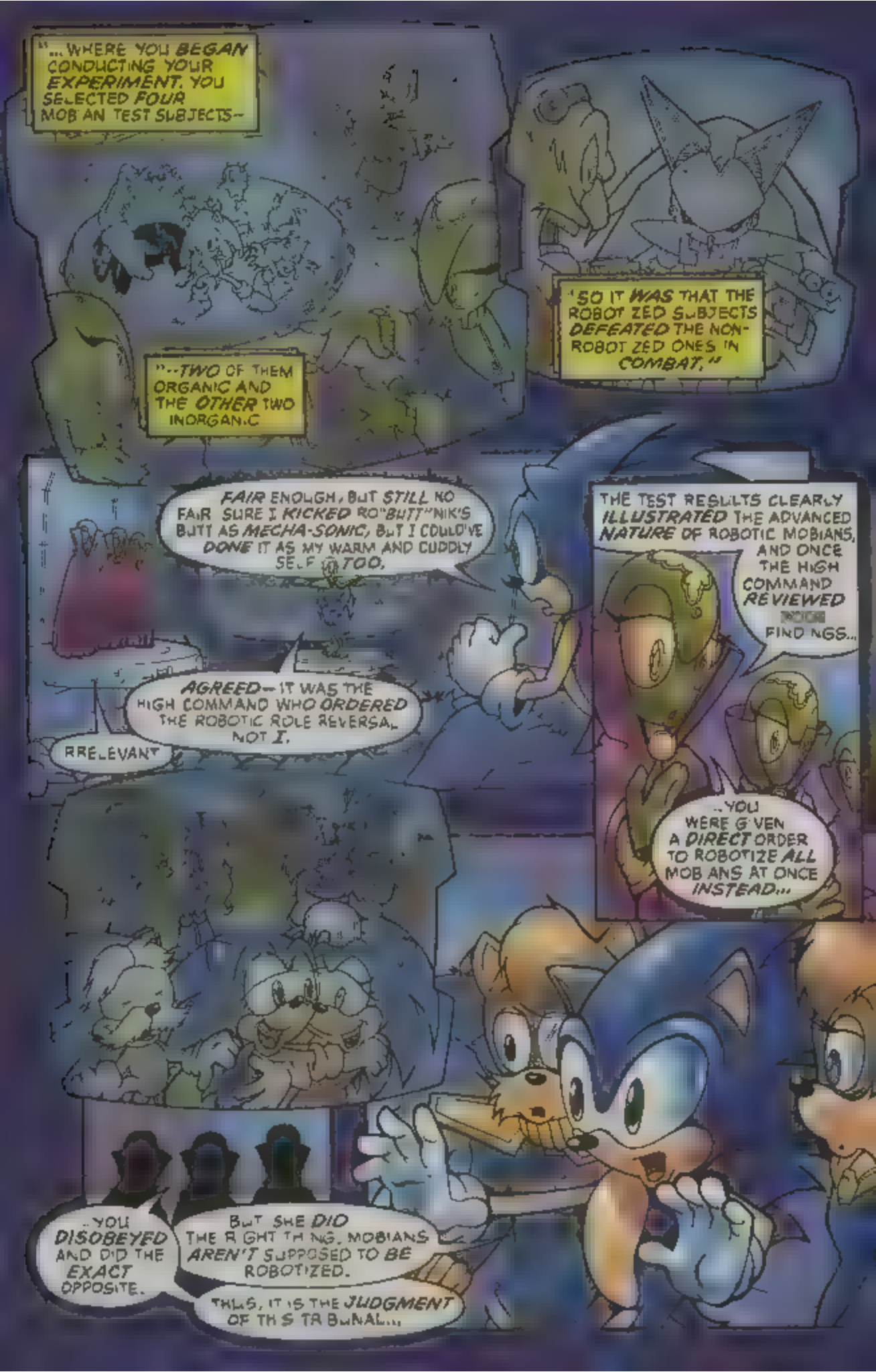
...OR BE *FORCED* TO LEAVE. THIS TRIAL IS NOT YET *ADJOURNED* CENECA-9009...

"...SIX CYCLES *AGO*, YOU WERE *RELEASED* FROM JAIL HAVING SERVED YOUR *SENTENCE*.

"YOU *AGAIN* APPROACHED THE HIGH COMMAND, BEGGING TO *RECTIFY* THE SITUATION ON MOBIUS

"THEY *DEMANDED* YOU PROVE YOUR *CASE* BY SHOWING THAT NON-ROBOTIZED MOBIANS WERE *SUPERIOR* TO THE ONES WHO WERE ROBOTIZED.

"THEY *SANCTIONED* YOUR TREK TO MOBIUS ONCE *MORE*...


"...WHERE YOU BEGAN CONDUCTING YOUR EXPERIMENT. YOU SELECTED FOUR MOBIAN TEST SUBJECTS--
"--TWO OF THEM ORGANIC AND THE OTHER TWO INORGANIC
"SO IT WAS THAT THE ROBOTIZED SUBJECTS DEFEATED THE NON-ROBOTIZED ONES IN COMBAT."
FAIR ENOUGH, BUT STILL NO FAIR. SURE I KICKED RO"BUTT"NIK'S BUTT AS MECHA-SONIC, BUT I COULD'VE DONE IT AS MY WARM AND CUDDLY SELF TOO.
THE TEST RESULTS CLEARLY ILLUSTRATED THE ADVANCED NATURE OF ROBOTIC MOBIANS, AND ONCE THE HIGH COMMAND REVIEWED THE FINDINGS...
AGREED--IT WAS THE HIGH COMMAND WHO ORDERED THE ROBOTIC ROLE REVERSAL, NOT I.
IRRELEVANT
...YOU WERE GIVEN A DIRECT ORDER TO ROBOTIZE ALL MOBIANS AT ONCE INSTEAD...
...YOU DISOBEYED AND DID THE EXACT OPPOSITE.
BUT SHE DID THE RIGHT THING. MOBIANS AREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE ROBOTIZED.
THUS, IT IS THE JUDGMENT OF THIS TRIBUNAL...

..THAT YOU BE *EXECUTED* AT THE START OF THE *NEXT* PLANETARY ROLL.

I *REGRET* NOTHING.

MINUTES LATER...

IT'S NOT *FAIR*--

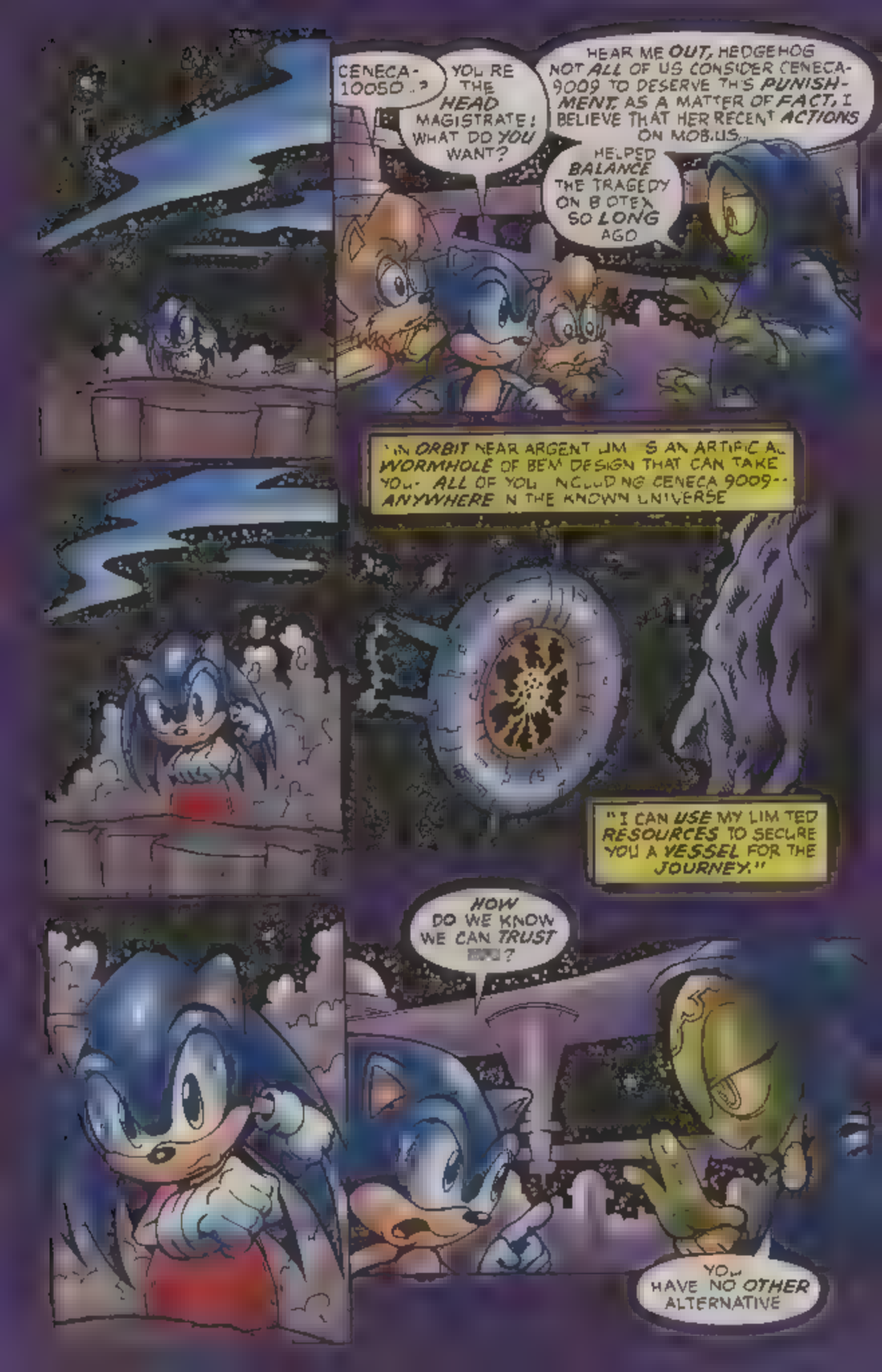
--AND *I'M* NOT GONNA STAND *BY* AND LET IT HAPPEN!

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO *DO* SONIC?

I *DUNNO*, SIR BUT RIGHT *NOW*..

..I'D SAY THE *THREE* OF US HAVE SOME CATCHING *UP* TO DO!

HOURS LATER...
SO OUR MILES IS A BRAVE HERO?
THE BRAVEST! PLUS HE'S THE BEST FIGHTER PILOT AND A MECHANICAL GENIUS TO BOOT!
I ALWAYS KNEW HE'D MAKE US PROUD.
DON'T WORRY, MA'AM, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SEE HIM AGAIN...
...AFTER I BUST CENECA-9009 OUT AND WE JUICE IN MY--
--SPACESHIP?
HEY!!
WHAT'S THE IDEA OF TAKING APART MY RIDE?!
LISTEN, MAC! I GOT MY ORDERS, YOU'S FROM MOBIUS RIGHT?
YEAH. WHAT ABOUT IT?
NO SHIPS ALLOWED BETWEEN HERE IN MOBIUS--NOT SINCE THE XORDA DECLARED WAR ON THAT MUD-SPECK! YOU DON'T LIKE IT, TAKE IT UP WITH HIGH COMMAND
WE'RE STRANDED.
NOT NECESSARILY.


CENECA-10050..?
YOU RE THE HEAD MAGISTRATE! WHAT DO YOU WANT?
HEAR ME OUT, HEDGEHOG NOT ALL OF US CONSIDER CENECA-9009 TO DESERVE THIS PUNISHMENT. AS A MATTER OF FACT, I BELIEVE THAT HER RECENT ACTIONS ON MOBIUS
HELPED BALANCE THE TRAGEDY ON BOTEX SO LONG AGO
IN ORBIT NEAR ARGENT UM IS AN ARTIFICIAL WORMHOLE OF BEM DESIGN THAT CAN TAKE YOU- ALL OF YOU INCLUDING CENECA 9009-- ANYWHERE IN THE KNOWN UNIVERSE
"I CAN USE MY LIMITED RESOURCES TO SECURE YOU A VESSEL FOR THE JOURNEY."
HOW DO WE KNOW WE CAN TRUST [illegible]?
YOU HAVE NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE

YOU CAN SAY *THAT* AGAIN.

INSIDE CENECA-9009'S PRISON CELL

WHAT N--?!

KRAKK

COME WITH ME IF YOU *DON'T* WANT TO BE *KILLED*.

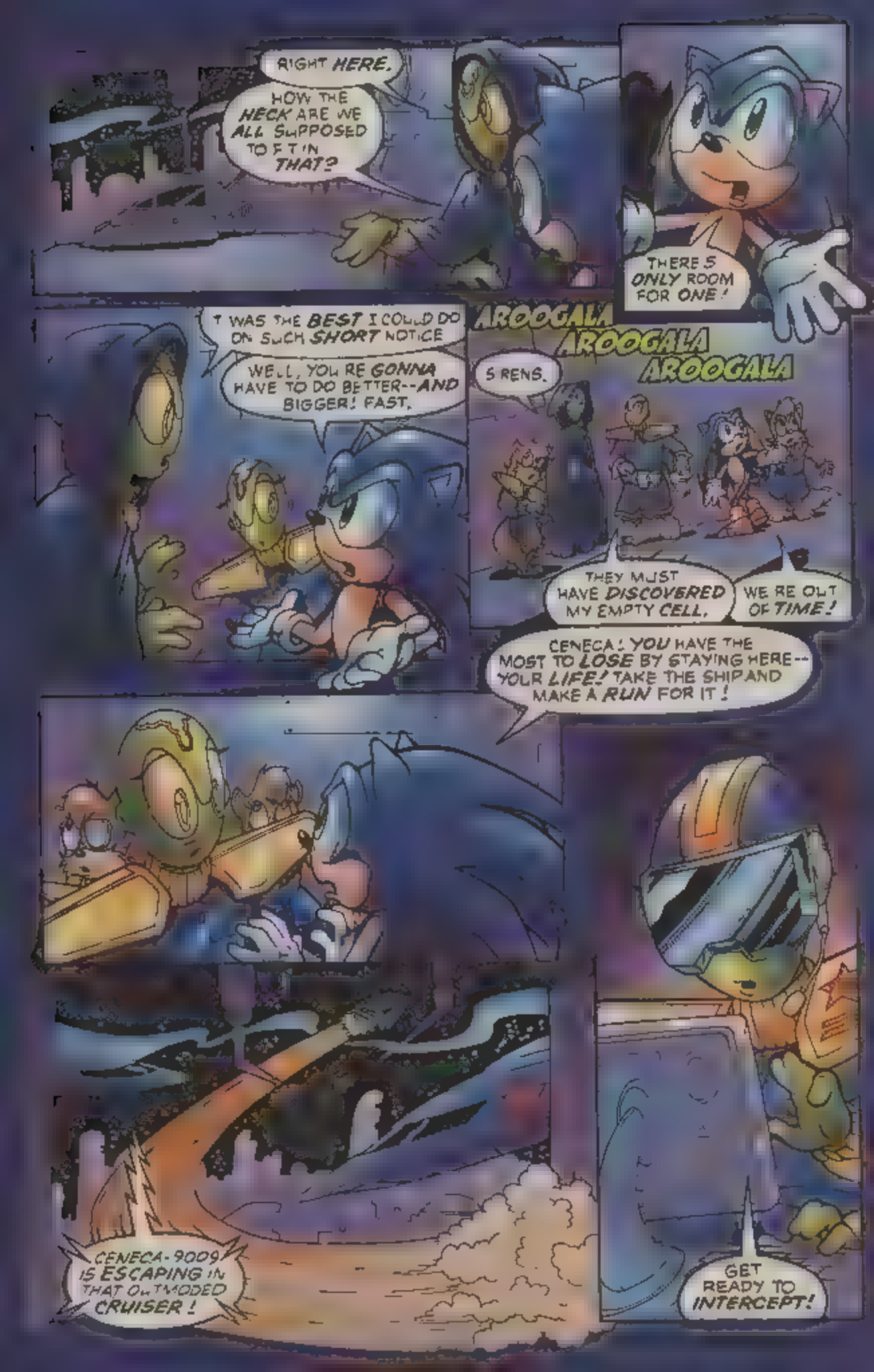
SECONDS LATER.

SONIC-- YOU *MADE* IT.

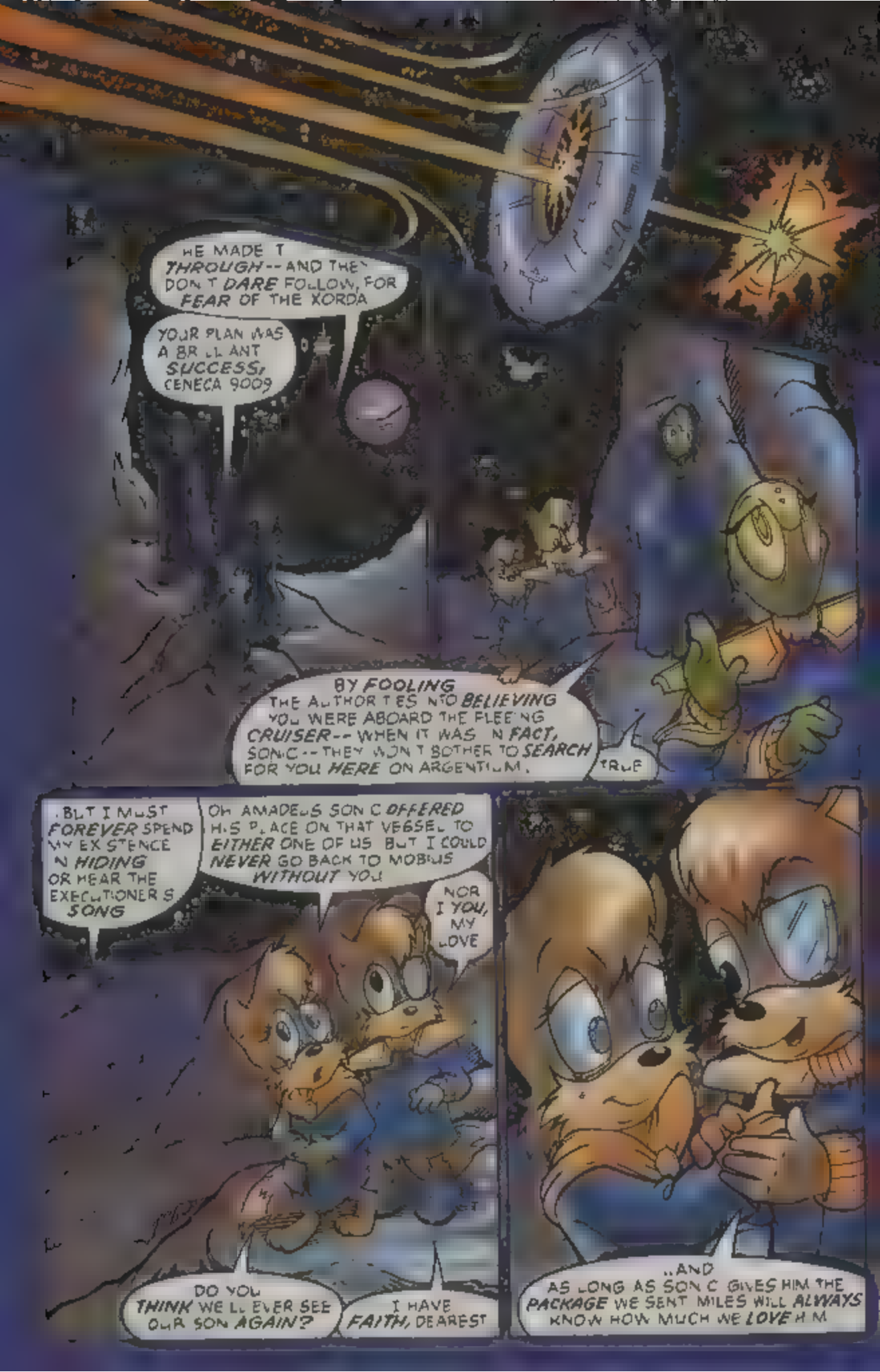
YEP

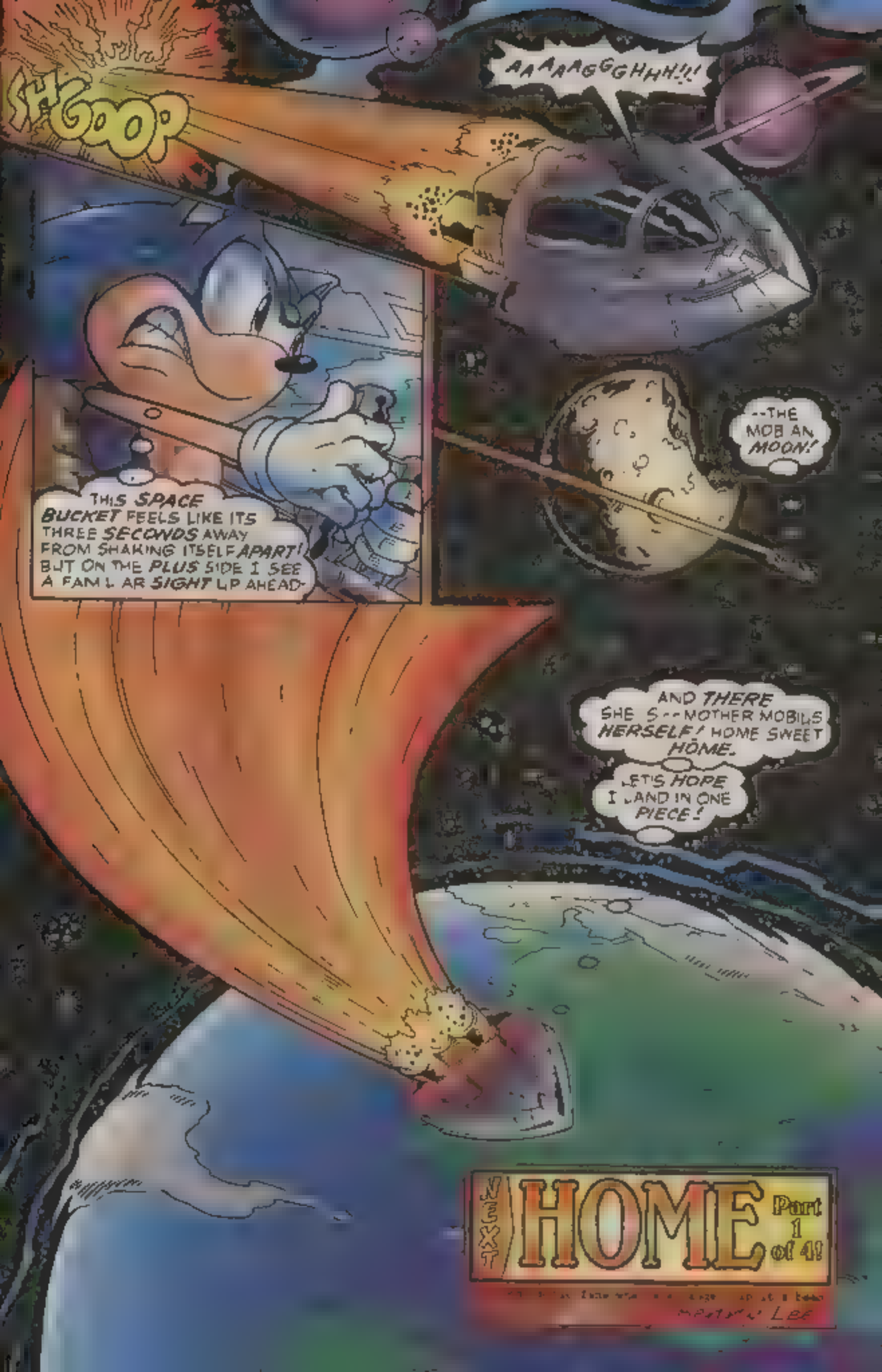
ARE WE *READY* TO ROLL?

WHERE'S THE SHIP?


RIGHT HERE.
HOW THE HECK ARE WE ALL SUPPOSED TO FIT IN THAT?
THERE'S ONLY ROOM FOR ONE!
IT WAS THE BEST I COULD DO ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE
WELL, YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO DO BETTER--AND BIGGER! FAST.
AROOGALA
AROOGALA
AROOGALA
SIRENS.
THEY MUST HAVE DISCOVERED MY EMPTY CELL.
WE'RE OUT OF TIME!
CENECA! YOU HAVE THE MOST TO LOSE BY STAYING HERE--YOUR LIFE! TAKE THE SHIP AND MAKE A RUN FOR IT!
CENECA-9009 IS ESCAPING IN THAT OUTMODED CRUISER!
GET READY TO INTERCEPT!

WOOOSH
K-ZARK
K-ZARK
POOM
POOM
" THE ROGUE VESSEL IS CLOSING FAST ON THE WORMHOLE
AND ACCORDING TO MY SENSORS, IT'S PLOTTED A COURSE TOWARD MOBIUS ..
.. A PLANET STRICTLY OFF-LIMITS TO US.
IF WE DON'T CAPTURE CENECA 9009 NOW...
" . WE'VE LOST HER FOR GOOD!"


WE MADE IT THROUGH -- AND THEY DON'T DARE FOLLOW, FOR FEAR OF THE XORDA
YOUR PLAN WAS A BRILLIANT SUCCESS, SENECA 9009
BY FOOLING THE AUTHORITIES INTO BELIEVING YOU WERE ABOARD THE FLEEING CRUISER -- WHEN IT WAS IN FACT, SONIC -- THEY WON'T BOTHER TO SEARCH FOR YOU HERE ON ARGENTIUM.
TRUE
BUT I MUST FOREVER SPEND MY EXISTENCE IN HIDING OR HEAR THE EXECUTIONER'S SONG
OH AMADEUS SONIC OFFERED HIS PLACE ON THAT VESSEL TO EITHER ONE OF US BUT I COULD NEVER GO BACK TO MOBIUS WITHOUT YOU
NOR I YOU, MY LOVE
DO YOU THINK WE'LL EVER SEE OUR SON AGAIN?
I HAVE FAITH, DEAREST
...AND AS LONG AS SONIC GIVES HIM THE PACKAGE WE SENT MILES WILL ALWAYS KNOW HOW MUCH WE LOVE HIM


SHOOP
AAAAAGGGHHH!!!
THIS SPACE BUCKET FEELS LIKE ITS THREE SECONDS AWAY FROM SHAKING ITSELF APART! BUT ON THE PLUS SIDE I SEE A FAMILIAR SIGHT UP AHEAD-
--THE MOB AN MOON!
AND THERE SHE S--MOTHER MOBILS HERSELF! HOME SWEET HOME.
LET'S HOPE I LAND IN ONE PIECE!
NEXT
HOME
Part 1 of 4!
STAN LEE

SONIC-GRAMS

THIS JUST IN!

SONIC X!

I've seen four episodes of the cartoon so far on the FoxBox... and I LIKE IT!!! The animation is nice, the stories are cool and best of all... there's an ongoing continuity as the series progresses. It is executive produced by Yuji Naka himself so what you see in the series is his take on what Sonic's adventures should be about. The cartoon's stories and settings are, of course, very different from the comic book's stories and settings. What to do? A lot of the fans speculated on-line that when Sonic returns home next issue, he would crash land on a Mobius remade into the world introduced in Sonic X. Rest assured, that is not the case (as you can see by the cover for #130 with Princess Sally, who doesn't exist in Sonic X). SEGA is leaving it up to us to decide how best to incorporate Sonic X into the Sonic Comic, whether we amalgamate it into our continuity (as we have done with the previous two TV series, both the syndicated humor series and the ever popular SatAM series, and the various games over the years), give it its own feature, or ignore it all together. I've come up with a decision, which I will reveal next issue. However, just for giggles, I'd like to know what you would do if you were in my shoes. We'll dedicate an entire letters page to those letters, so send them in to Ken as soon as you can.

Until then, may the need for speed be with you...

Ig

Note: Due to the overwhelming amount of e-mail and snail mail, it is impossible for us to reply personally to each and every message. However, your opinions are important to us and each message will be read. Also, due to space limitations, some correspondence may be edited. *THANKS FOR UNDERSTANDING!*

Send Letters and E-mail To:

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COMING ATTRACTIONS

Ken Penders here... It's really weird when putting these letters pages together 'cause by the time you guys read this it's two months down the road from when we get ready to send this to the printers. At this time, SONIC X has been on for a few weeks, and already you're asking us how it's going to play out in the comics. And the honest answer is we're not sure yet, but nothing is being ruled out. That said, let's see what's the latest, starting off with a fan from Downunda...

Dear Sonic and the Sonic crew,

First I would like to thank and congratulate you all on the ongoing success of the Sonic comics. The Manga/anime concept art is absolutely fantastic. I would especially like to congratulate "Spaz" for his ever-improving work on the comic covers over the past years. When I first started collecting I thought that the cover art was marvelous and now, after many years and issues later, it has been brought to unimaginable artistic heights. Well done!! Also, the story lines are very interesting, always bringing suspense and dazzling art at every flip of a page. I think these kinds of story lines are better because they attract more age groups and people can relate to some of the stories.

The second thing I would like to bring up is the use of Australian animals and the "Downunda" freedom fighters. I think that it's awesome that you use Aussie animals. No other (or perhaps barely any) comic series contains Australian animals. I (and other Aussie Sonic fans) would just like to say, "Great job, mate." Of course, we would like to see them in another mini-series or something. This might seem like a bit of a weird question, but are there any unusual animal combinations/crossbreeds in Sonic now or planned i.e. snake crossed with bird or Hedgehog crossed with fox? If not, I think that would be an interesting idea for the future.

I would just like to express my feelings about the so-called "unpopularity" of Sonic in Australia. I'm sure most of you would have no idea how hard it is to get anything Sonic in Australia. The comic series is 5 issues behind and most newsagents don't even stock it. Down here, if you missed an issue, you'll never ever get it (unless a miracle happens). This is very disappointing for us Sonic fans who can't get back issues. No Sonic merchandise is sold here, SatAM hasn't aired here yet and I doubt it will. I know you probably aren't the right people to ask this question, but I thought I might as well: Will Sonic X air in Australia? People think Sonic is so unpopular down here, but he really isn't. I know plenty of people who love Sonic and wish we could see more of him in Australia. Anyway, keep up the mondo coolio work and on behalf of the Sonic fans of Australia I would like to congratulate the whole Sonic crew and all the freedom fighters for their outstanding performance and we hope you keep bringing us the same awesome work for many years to come.

Your loyal freedom fighting Sonic fan,

Haylo the Fox-Bat : Leader of the Australian freedom fighters. (different area than the Downunda's)

Wish we could help you out, Haylo, but it's all we can do just to get our books to the readers on this side of the world. At this time, your best bet is going online and looking for a source that carries our books that also ships to your neck of the woods. As for SONIC X, that all depends if a station or network makes it known to the people who produce the show that they'd like to broadcast it. Maybe you can organize a letter campaign to let them know there's an audience for it. Check back with us later and let us know how it goes.

Hey, Sonic guys!

First off, I don't think I need to repeat others in saying that #125 was absolutely brilliant. It truly was one of the best things that I've ever read. Now, that aside, I'd like to throw in my opinion on many of the discussions currently going on. I think the current 2-story format is just perfect. The stories are just long enough to be good, but not so long they get boring. Trying to cram 3 stories into one issue made most of them seem rushed or cut down. As for people saying you should do stories focused more on non-main characters (i.e. not in Knothole or a member of Sonic's freedom fighter group), I think that's ridiculous. Bear in mind there are only 12 or 13 issues a year. With those few issues and just 32 pages a month to cram everything into, it seems a waste of space and time to print stories revolving entirely around nonessential characters. If people are that desperate to see minor characters such as Geoffrey St. John, etc. (I don't like the minor characters

Cover by Patrick SPAZiante with inks by Nelson Ribeiro and colors by Josh D. Ray. Frontispiece by J. Axer with inks by Michael Higgins and colors by Jason Jensen. Letters page design by Joe Pep.

much anyway), they should just be given a cameo or something.

Oh, and as for people wanting even more characters, I say STOP IT NOW!!! No more new characters! There are already FAR too many as it is, and more characters would just cause greater conflict over my last point. Oh, but there is ONE new character I want to see - CREAM! PLEASE put her in soon, and don't just give her a cameo every now and then like Shadow and Rouge, as I'd love to see her as a Knothole resident. After all, this is an OFFICIAL Sonic comic, so why should characters like Sally and Rotor get starring roles whilst official characters like Shadow and Rouge are constantly pushed into the background? Anyway, I've taken up enough of your precious, precious time, so what's left to say besides keep up the great work?

Mark Teo, England, UK

Mark, right about now, a good portion of Sonic fandom may take what you said as "fighting words." Everyone has varying opinions: Play down their favorite character? No new characters? Then you ask Cream be added and featured? While downplaying Sally and Rotor? Downplaying SALLY? Did I get you straight? I can already imagine the letters and e-mail that will be generated immediately after they read this.

Dear Sonic Crew,

I just finished reading both issues 126 and 127, and I am absolutely stunned. I mean, WOW! These issues were awesome, beyond awesome, absolutely, indescribably fun and exciting to read. I figured I just had to let you guys know about how I felt. First, the things I didn't like. There were none. I loved 'em. The first thing I noticed was the return of the traditional covers. To me, this was cool. Not because I didn't particularly like the magazine style, but because it was rather limited in what the artists could do with it, and became boring and repetitious after a few issues. Moving on, I found the true blue hero on a distant planet, and soon he was battling space aliens. While it may not seem as monumental to other readers as it does to myself, I found this an awesome move on the part of the writers. Sonic was fighting something other than Robotnik and his robots. Of course, the twisted Doc is a bad guy who needs to be beaten, and a fun arch-nemesis for Sonic, but it can lose its luster after a while. I was pleased to see that for the next few issues, Sonic would have other things to battle besides the usual customers. Much like the Ixis Naugus saga, I find this a refreshing and exciting break. Not to mention I had always wanted to see Sonic in a sci-fi environment, and the different aliens battling for supremacy certainly fit the bill.

Next, I noticed something about the stories themselves. They seemed longer, at less of a rushed pace then they were before. And unless I am mistaken, they are longer. Before the issue 125 story, the main stories in a book were about 11 pages long. Both issues 126 and 127 had a 16 page main story. I think this is an AWESOME change.

I cannot express how much of a difference I felt in these story lines. It gave you guys time to expand upon the events and characters in a given story. Like in issue 127, I felt you guys did a great job first with the alien spacecraft. The whole time Sonic was up there, I never got the feeling that anything was being rushed, and I really got a lot of info about these aliens. On top of that, you still were able to change the direction of the story and have Sonic crash on a planet, and learn about its accelerated evolution. Absolutely terrific. I think this is a perfect length for the main story. Then, there were the extra strips in the book. Both were very well done. A lot can be done with five pages, and you guys actually did a very nice piece with the "Off Panel" story in issue 126. The one in 127 was good as well. My only complaint was that I would rather have seen more of Knuckles, or any of Sonic's friends back on Mobius, instead. However, I'm sure you guys have your reasons. Concerning the artwork, I like the style used in issue 126 over 127. I'm not too well learned on the different techniques that go into the different aspects of making a comic panel, so I use the term style loosely. I just liked the way the characters looked, as well as the coloring.

Also, about your book being cool compared to other comics. Well, I myself am a 15 year old who dabbles in the art of comic collecting, so I have read a few other series myself, some targeted to more higher age brackets than others. But I still think this comic stands right up there with the best of them.

Anyway, if you are actually reading this it means you took the time to listen to what I had to say, so thanks. I just want to let you all know that I support your book 100%, and will always be a true blue fan.

Tom Harritt

Actually, Tom, we make it a point to read ALL our mail, even though it's not possible to print more than a small portion of it. It's how we find out what you guys like, and more important, what you don't like, so we can continue to make this book a "must read" every month. Judging by that, we must be doing something right as Sonic is the envy throughout the comics industry.

And on that note, it's a wrap, people. See you in four weeks.

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